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Subject: Activities of the PGT.

Report No: HUL-001

Place Acquired: C J

Date of Info: 28 January to
22 February 1954
Date Received: 26 February to
18 March 1954

Evaluation: C-2

Source: A member of the PGT.

1. Immediately prior to the opening of the CGTG Congress in Guatemala a group of prominent communists met on 28 January 1954 to discuss party matters. Those present included Manuel FORTUNY, Carlos Manuel PELLECE, Leonardo CASTILLO F., Jaime DIAZ Rozzotto, Manuel PINTO Usaga, Virgilio GUERRA, Antonio CABRERA, Guillermo Max GONZALEZ, Max SALAZAR, Samuel SIEKAVIZZA, Rolando CALDERON, Tomas YANCOS Mejia, Alfredo GUERRA Borges, Dagoberto VASQUEZ, Humberto AYESITAS and Ricardo BARRERA.
2. FORTUNY opened the discussion by saying that the political situation faced by the government was of great urgency for the PGT. PINTO replied that too much liberty had been allowed the press and radio, and that the party must be more firm if it does not want to fall into the hands of its enemies. He added that all those showing weakness should be expelled from the party. FORTUNY then said that many members had been leaving the organization of late, particularly during the last three months of 1953. The decline in membership has been alarming, according to FORTUNY, and some means, such as increases in salaries, must be studied for stopping this trend. He praised the Juventud Femenil and said that this group had collaborated better than any other in the Pro-Peace campaign. Many of these girls were stated to work for the government, and FORTUNY said that the Minister of Education must allow groups of them to leave at least once each week for trips into the provinces. There they would discuss social and economic matters with the campesinos. PINTO agreed with the latter suggestion and argued that a training school should be set up for the purpose.
3. Virgilio GUERRA then took the floor and stated that there must be an immediate cleaning out of all elements who are not completely dependable, inasmuch as of late there had been many cases of treason in the Army and other branches of the government. FORTUNY agreed with this suggestion, and said that he would present it for consideration during his next interview with ARBENZ.
4. PINTO said that there had recently been a meeting of communist leaders at the Rincon de Goya in Mexico City. A party member known as I.J. Bowen used the occasion to say goodbye to the local group, inasmuch as he had reportedly received orders from the Soviet Union to go to Panama on 8 February and take charge of vigilance of the canal area. Bowen said that he would maintain communications with Guatemala through a contact known as C J who lives at C J. PINTO said that the person living at this address should be watched carefully inasmuch as he is suspected in Mexico of being an American spy, notwithstanding the fact that he belongs to the Communist Party.*

*LINCOLN Comment: Local files contain no reference to C J or BOWEN.

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5. During the last days of January 1954 the Central Committee of the PGT agreed that a note should be sent to ARBENZ asking for the immediate replacement of all diplomatic representatives of Guatemala in other countries of Central America and Mexico, including those in subordinate positions. It was decided to increase the salaries of heads of party groups in foreign countries in the amount of 25 Quetzales and the pay of the balance of the personnel in the exterior by 15 Quetzales.
6. A note from Justino A. ~~GUDI~~EL, PGT agent in San Salvador, to party headquarters in Guatemala City, covering the week ending 30 January, states that a messenger had just returned from Nicaragua. The latter had only been able to determine that boxed merchandise was being unloaded in Puerto Cabezas. The boxes, which bore markings that they contained machinery, were reported to be large. The messenger said that he had been able to establish that the crates contained arms, which have not left Nicaragua. He also said that there are United States troops in Nicaragua, but that there appeared to be no more than 50, all stationed at the airport. Communications between GUDI~~E~~L and the PGT seem to be good. One letter dispatched from San Salvador on 4 February arrived in party headquarters the same day.
7. On 22 February 1954, immediately prior to the departure of the Guatemalan delegation for Caracas, there was a meeting of the delegates and prominent communists in Guatemala City. Among those present was the Foreign Minister, and it was stated that this was the first time he had been seen at PGT headquarters. TORIELLO said that the delegation should not take any moves which would indicate that Guatemala is communist, but that the issue of non-intervention should be stressed. Later in the evening the group discussed those radio and press elements which are attacking the government, and it was agreed that this matter must be taken up again with ARBENZ. Some means must be found to put a stop to this type of propaganda, or at least to restrict it as much as possible. It was pointed out that such news might cause the people to resent the PGT, even though the reports are obviously lies. The group is apparently aware of the activities of the opposition in the exterior, and they are awaiting a surprise from one moment to another.

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